

Kershaw County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Employability- 41 years employment skills
- Economic-growth and development
- Success breeds success
- Attract people to live in the county, an example - Elgin
- Good schools
- Quality of life increases
- Break economic cycles
- Keep best talent here
- Growing population
- Increased wealth and tax base
- Increased economic development opportunities
- Community enrichment
- Healthy community

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- After school programs- academic assistance, tutoring, community life skills for all student scoring below basic
- Drugs and alcohol abuse prevention programs
- Align all curriculum standards with in all schools
- Need to take a few concepts and do them well - focus
- More parental involvement
- Athletics and academics balanced
- Better financial wealth budget
- More community recognition of the value of education and the potential of all children
- More career guidance so that students have a plan in place
- Activities that invite/ encourage parents to come to the school

Strengths:

- Fine Arts program- work with behavioral problem students
- District is evaluating tutor/ academic assistance

Challenges:

- The per pupil revenue is \$2,500 per year, yet the average is \$400 – need people to not just live but work here as well
- Transportation issues
- More descriptive assessment to target intervention/ assistance for individual students (PACT does not provide diagnostic component)
- Trying to do a lot with a little- curriculum
- PACT results are not provided to schools in timely manner
- Family expectations for children and opportunities
- Addressing percent of population with out education

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- 2nd chance program

- Business/ school partnership
- Volunteerism, PTOs, mentoring, parents
- Mental health involvement
- U.W, CIS, First Step, Fine Arts Center

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Getting seniors involved
- Fundraising and volunteerism
- Better teaching of discipline to children